

COUNTRY Approved For Release 2001/03/22 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000300200004-2

TOPIC Kasernierte Volkspolizei in the Rathenow Area

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [REDACTED] the barracks buildings in Premnitz, near Rathenow, quartered about 1,500 VPs since 27 October 1952. The troops wore either the old blue uniform or the new olive drab uniform. They had either crimson epaulets or red-bordered black epaulets. No heavy weapons were seen. The Soviet unit which had been located in the barracks buildings had moved to the Kraftfahrer Kaserne in Rathenow. ¹
2. Plant II of the Rathenower Optische Werke at the intersection of Friedrich Ebert Ring and Friedrich Lange Strasse quartered 200 VPs since about 20 November 1952. They wore blue collar patches and cap ribbons. They were armed with carbines. Some had carbines with folding bayonets. No heavy weapons or vehicles were seen. The troops started receiving training on 3 December. They either drilled in the billeting area or practiced firing with carbines and pistols in the firing ranges east of the Infanterie Kaserne, usually under supervision of 2 German officers and 3 Soviet officers. ² Groups of about 40 troops received field training in the heath near Semlin.
3. The Arado Plant was completely vacated by the Soviets and was guarded by a VP detail. It was rumored that a branch of the IFA plant in Berlin-Johannesthal would be transferred there. ³

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4. [REDACTED] the barracks buildings in Premnitz about 10 km south of Rathenow was occupied by units of the national army which had an estimated strength of 300 to 400 soldiers. They wore new uniforms with blue piping and blue collar patches. No vehicles or heavy weapons were seen. Franke (fmu) was commanding officer. ¹

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1. Comment. The barracks buildings in Premnitz has been occupied by the 2d Mecz Regt of the mechanized division Eggesin with a strength of 1,700 to 1,900 VPs since about 23 October 1952. The regiment's service color is blue. Major Franke (fmu) is regimental commander. It is correct that the rocket launcher brigade which had previously been quartered in Premnitz moved to the Kraftfahrer Kaserne in Rathenow.

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2.  Comment. The Rathenower Optische Werke (optical plant) was vacated by Soviet troops in July 1952. The service color indicates that the VFs are tank troops and/or mechanized troops. It is possible that they are elements of the mechanized regiment in Premnitz.

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3.  Comment. No other information is available. Further information is needed.

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